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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

SUBJECT Battalions for Maintenance of Military Telegraph Lines

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "In peacetime the care of the permanent military telegraph lines (on poles) is entrusted to:
 - a. Telegraph-telephone battalions. In peacetime every military district normally has one-three such battalions.
 - b. Separate telegraph-telephone companies. Such companies are attached to military garrisons.
2. "In wartime the headquarters of staffs and armies are provided for communication with:
 - a. Telegraph-building battalions. One to two battalions are attached to each army.
 - b. Telegraph-exploiting battalions (TEB).
3. "Every TEB has three telegraph-exploiting companies (TER) with four platoons in each. One to two such battalions are attached to every army.
4. "The communication between army and front headquarters takes place over permanent lines (on poles) or over cable lines.
5. "Separate telegraph-exploiting companies (OTER) and telegraph-exploiting companies (TER) have the same organization. Since 1948 these units have been 100 per cent motorized. They consist of four equally large platoons.
6. "Normally one OTER or TER services 100-150 kilometers of telephone line. Each platoon normally services 50-40 km of the line. The fourth platoon stays in reserve.
7. "The personnel of the TER and OTER consists of the following trained specialists:
 - a. Line inspectors
 - b. BODO telegraph operators
 - ST-35 " "
 - Morse " "
 - c. Telephone operators

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- d. Electromechanics
- e. Electrotechnicians

8. "The OTER and TER are responsible for telegraph communications between the headquarters of army corps, armies and fronts. When the armed forces are advancing, these companies: a. rehabilitate the network of the permanent telegraph and cable lines in the territory taken from the enemy and operate them; b. direct the building of new lines by the telegraph-building battalions and companies and operate the new lines.
9. "On retreat these companies destroy the lines of communication on the territories abandoned to the enemy. For these purposes they are provided with the appropriate means of destruction.
10. "In peacetime the OTER and TER are subordinated to the 'Operative Administration of the Chief Administration of the Land Forces Communications'.
11. "In wartime the majority of these companies are put at the disposal of the Communications Administrations of the Fronts and the Communications Departments of the Armies.
12. "The OTER and TER have their own special numbering, viz.
 - 1 OTER, 2 OTER, etc. - 1000 OTER
 - 1 TER, 2 TER, etc. - 500 TER."

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batteries.

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